

Tamang Children from Rasuwa district

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PAF holds Board Meeting

PM for rapid expansion of PAF program

PAF held the 16th meeting of Board of Directors on July 15, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who is also the Chairman of the Board.

The meeting was the first after the appointment of the new board of directors in June.

Addressing the Board meeting, PM Koirala - the head of the eight-party government - suggested PAF to extend its programs to reach out to the poor households as soon as possible.

"The poor should realize the benefits of PAF programs to raise their living standard, and that should come sooner than later", PM koirala told the board meeting. PM Koirala also laid emphasis on the need to monitor the programs meant for the extreme poor.

The board meeting formalized a decision to extend the coverage of PAF programs

to additional 15 districts, bringing the total number of the PAF program districts to 40.

The meeting also decided to implement various income generation and community infrastructure related activities in the VDCs of Southern districts bordering with India. The board members also endorsed the budget for the fiscal year 2007/08.

Earlier at the meeting, Vice Chairman of the PAF Board, Dr Ram Prakash Yadav briefed the board members on the latest status of implementation of PAF programs and plans for the fiscal year 2007/08.

Established in 2004, PAF is implementing various income generation, capacity building and community infrastructure



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Revolt is not reform Convert popular anger into good government

BY DR. KENICHI OHASHI



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The political change in April 2006 was a revolt that reflected the Nepali people's mounting frustration with the lack of progress in political, social, and economic development of the country.

Yet, fifteen months after the event, one can't shake a feeling that things have slid back to the old ways. How to convert popular anger into good government?

Where will the sustained energy to establish transparency and accountability in politics and government come from? There are two: communities and leadership.

In Nepal, many community-based programs have delivered impressive development results: community forestry, women's groups, community-based rural drinking water programs, micro-hydro projects, community management of schools, and the Poverty Alleviation Fund.

This is not to say such programs have been free from elite capture, but overall results have been impressive. Such programs are critical for development, and also for a more profound social transformation. In fact, that is probably why they work well. In a typical community-based program, a user group is formed. It receives a block grant from the government or a donor agency, mobilizes its own resources, makes a collective decision on creation of public goods, and executes the project.

This is precisely what a local government is designed to do. The only difference is it seems to work even better. DDCs and VDCs have not been able to mobilize much in the way of local taxes, many user groups have been very successful in doing so. This difference is telling.

Many Nepalis are not sure their taxes will benefit them through public services. But, the members of many user groups are confident that their common

investment will benefit them because they feel they have the power to hold leaders accountable.



In short, such a user group is a functioning micro-government, and there are thousands of them across Nepal. At higher levels of government common citizens are still unable to overcome the old system of hierarchy and patronage. So, why not start the process of establishing democracy from where it actually works?

This is a central reason why the World Bank is prepared to support the government's new initiative to provide block grants directly to communities.

Imagine what would happen if those small villages of 20 to 50 households are allowed to 'federate,' or join with neighboring villages. Relatively large investments will become possible, and those units would resemble a local government. Nepal can build on the strength of community level development efforts. This will inculcate a culture of democracy. There are excellent leaders who have vision, integrity, and commitment. Their role is critical.

If what transpired in April 2006 was about implementing deep reforms and creating a good government in Nepal, then the steadfast work and the smart leadership shown by reform-minded people, the civil service and elsewhere are really the people's movement. It will in time bring real change.

As I leave Nepal after serving six years, I do so with a sense of hope, because there is a real Jana Andolan underway in this country.

The author recently wound up a six-year assignment in Nepal as the World Bank Country Director for Nepal. (Courtesy: Nepali Times Weekly) □

PAF in Budget

Government has announced PAF's reach would be extended in the additional 15 districts from this fiscal year. "Intensive program on poverty alleviation will be carried out in 40 districts including districts of Karnali Zone and also in all the Village Development Committees of southern Madhesh bordering with India," said Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat. Presenting the budget for 2007/08 in the Parliament, the Finance Minister announced allocation of a sum of Rs 1.77 billion in PAF for implementing the targeted poverty reduction program for the year. The budget would be utilized to carry out income generating programs like promotion of traditional skills and innovation led enterprise; community infrastructure like roads, bridge, drinking water and irrigation; and capacity development programs like education, health and training to the ultra poor, women, Dalits, indigenous people, Janajatis and backward Madhesi communities. The government has estimated that as many as 3,500 projects would be implemented in the year, which would benefit about 80 thousand households. Subsequent to the announcement, PAF, holding a board meeting, endorsed that the new 15 districts wherein it would commence its programs from this fiscal year would be: Terhathum, Dhanusa, Bardiya, Parsa, Taplejung, Dhading, Panchthar, Sindhupalchoke, Solukhumbu, Udaypur, Saptari, Salyan, Khotang, Bara Okhaldhunga. □

Mahabir Pun associated with PAF wins Magasaysay award

Mahabir Pun, who established a wireless computer technology (wi-fi) in the villages of Myagdi under the support of PAF, has received prestigious Magasaysay award. Board of Trustees of Ramon Magasaysay Award Foundation, based in the Philippines, conferred the award of US \$50,000 to Pun for linking the remote villages of Myagdi with the world and driving the village folks to socio-economic advancement through the innovative use of wi-fi technology.

Pun's Nepal Wireless Network Project was one of the 20 innovative projects, which bagged PAF's support under the program 'Launa Aba Ta Kehi Garaun' in

PAF in New York Times

PAF featured in the cover story of *Sunday Magazine* of New York Times on June 10. The story highlighted PAF programs and its impact

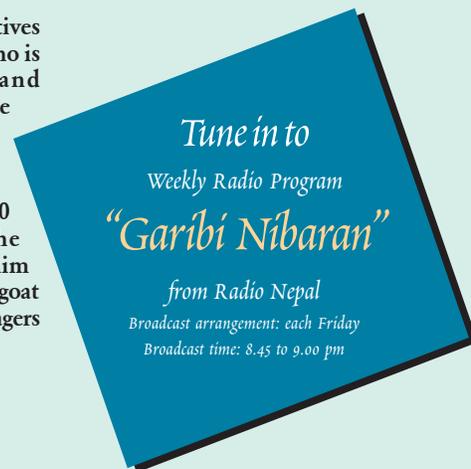


on poverty reduction at length, presenting Gore Sarki, one of the beneficiaries of PAF programs in Ramechhap district, as the main character of the story. To develop the story, Jason DeParle, a senior writer for The Times and Lant Pritchett, a development economist who teaches at Harvard University had visited different villages of Ramechhap district.

The writer has analyzed PAF's initiatives through a perspective of Pritchett, who is the champion of migration and globalization of labor. Citing the case of Sarki in Chaurmuni village, the story has divulged into the process on how PAF identifies its beneficiaries. Sarki had bought a goat from US \$50 pledged to him by PAF, and the economist estimated it would fetch him additional 25 dollars when he sells the goat next year. Like Sarki, twenty other villagers



are raising 55 goats and they all would reap handsome profit out of it. Thus, Pritchett has lauded the community development initiatives of PAF. However, he has argued that even though PAF's initiatives would help reduce poverty, the radical transformation of the society would be possible only if the developed countries opened their job markets to the people of the poorer countries. □



the World Bank's Nepal Development Market 2005. PAF has supported Rs 1.30 million in the project and it has benefited residents of 6 VDCs of Myagdi district.

"Introduction of new technology has contributed to establish call centres in the villages. This has generated new employment opportunities and accessed the people to telephone and internet services to keep in touch with their relatives who are in overseas employment," Pun told *Jeevika*.

He elaborated that seven schools of different villages run computer and internet education and people are

consulting with doctors in Pokhara for the treatment of various diseases.



Pun himself applies the technology to market honey, tea, jam and other consumable goods produced in the villages. "The real objective of poverty reduction will be achieved once people regularly use the technology for market development and tapping other economic opportunities," he said, adding that PAF ha also requested him to replicate the project in Chainpur of Bajhang district. □



Siraha is one of the least developed districts of Sagarmatha zone of Eastern Development Region of Nepal. It ranks 64 in terms of Overall Composite Index of Development. The district lies between 26 33' to 26 55' longitude and 86 06' to 86 26' latitude. Altitude varies from 76 m to 885 m above the mean Sea level. Politically, the district is divided into 106 VDCs and 2 Municipalities. The district headquarter is Siraha Municipality.

PAF launched its activities in the district in 2005 and it is one of its pilot districts. PAF program presently covers 71 VDCs. Currently, eighteen Partner Organizations (POs) are facilitating social mobilization in the district.

Under the income generating sub-projects, Community Organizations (COs) are implementing livestock raising programs - such as buffalo, cow, pig and goat raising -



service businesses like repair and maintenance works, tailor and small retail shops. Agriculture based activities such as vegetable farming, nurseries, asparagus farming, and fisheries are also run under IG sub-projects.

Rural link road, well and tube well for drinking water, rural electricity for irrigation, treadle pump for irrigation, culvert and school buildings are the major infrastructure related sub-projects implemented in Siraha.

Various Infra sub-projects have already been completed. Likewise, four rural/link roads, two wells for drinking water, 1 rural electricity for irrigation, 1 culvert, 78 treadle pumps for irrigation, 1 school toilets have also been constructed under the infrastructure development sub-projects.

PAF has also helped the farmers to replicate rice intensification technology in Siraha under the program "Lau na Aba ta kehi garau". This has enabled about 40 households of small farmers to enjoy high yield of rice production and reap 1.5 quintal per kattha, compared to previous yield of 1 quintal.

PAF has collaborated with Madanjeet Scholarship Program under Council for Technical and Vocational Education (CTEVT) to develop 6 ANM (health

workers) in 2007/08. Six ANMs have recently passed out from such collaboration initiated last year.

PAF has also signed in a similar type of understanding with Madan Bhandari Memorial Academy to produce 5 veterinary JTA, 4 CMA, 4 ANM, 6 Community Veterinary Assistants, 3 Community Agriculture Assistants under education loan program. PAF has also collaborated with the District Agriculture Development Office, Siraha to promote new agricultural technology.

At present, 477 community organizations (COs) are registered with PAF while 405 COs have already made 407 sub-projects agreement. So far a total of 221 sub-projects have been already completed. A total of 186 sub-projects are in the middle stage of implementation. Additional 150 sub-projects are in the pipeline, ready for receiving support from PAF. PAF has already disbursed Rs. 165.3 million till 2006/07. This has benefitted 11,798 HHs in the district. The community has also contributed about NRs. 1.43 million in cash and NRs. 0.66 million in kinds to implement the programs.

PAF's initiatives have enabled the community people to enjoy economic and social benefits. It has helped in their capacity building. As a result, the community members are efficiently shouldering the responsibility of developing the community action plan and revolving fund generation and management norms. They are actively participating in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. PAF programs have supported them in improving their livelihood and raised their confidence. The positive change is visible in the social inclusion front within the CO members and the communities. The poor and socially excluded rural people have started to associate themselves with their own community organizations. They are taking decisions on their development needs. This approach has been highly appreciated at the community level. □

GENERAL DISTRICT INFORMATION

LOCATION	EASTERN REGION
Area	1228 Sq KM
Altitude range	1201 m to 6717 m
Political Division	106 VDCs and 2 Municipalities
Population	572551 (Female 51%)
Population growth rate	2.17%
Economically active population	47%
Literacy rate	40.7% (27.1 % female, 53.64% male)
Life Expectancy	56 years
Rank in HDI	64 th

Source: Siraha District Profile and CBS 2001

PAF frees

Bhum Bahadur from annual contract labor

SUCCESS STORIES

Bhum Bahadur Nepali, now 62, used to lead a life of 'an annual contract labor' (practiced under *Balighare* system). For four decades, he used his skills of cutting, stitching and tailoring to serve Bistas, so called higher caste community and elites of Bijubar VDC-1 in the remote Pyuthan district. His hard work and service to his masters round the year, however, used to be returned with a meager amount of foods, which were simply not enough to meet the food requirement of his family. As he was forced to sell his labor cheaply, there was no signs and hope he would one day manage to earn a decent income and living. But all that has become a past story for Bhum Bahadur.

Two years ago, his long cherished dream to open and own a tailor of his own materialized with a support of PAF. First Tikuri community organization extended him an interest free loan of Rs 5,000, then PAF-funded Munal community organization provided him with an additional fund of Rs 9,000 in

loans. With it he bought an interlock machine. With the skills, today he has many customers and earns a free and decent living. PAF's support and his own commitment and labor embarked him in a journey to freedom. Today he lives a free and self-sustained life.

".....I had no skills other than tailoring. With PAF's support, my skill is fetching me a good income these days," Bhum Bahadur told Jeevika at his shop, which he has opened in Ward no 4 of Bijura VDC. Bhum Bahadur's shop takes order for stitching dresses for all age groups of both the sexes. He has also kept the cost of his service at a slightly cheaper rate compared to other tailors in the village. That has helped him to attract a fair number of clients, generating him a good business. "It comes to around Rs 6,000 a month," said Bhum Bahadur, recalling how he used to reel under crisis in the absence of sufficient income and independent earning opportunities. "PAF has helped me gain independence," he stated.

Freedom from *Balighare* mode of living has enabled Bhum Bahadur to think big and plan for his future and other family members. He is happy and excited when he says he has already worked out a plan to expand his business, and a local NGO, Jana Jyoti Community Development Center has come to his help to materialize it.

Bhum Bahadur is just one of hundreds of Dalits, who have managed to come out of their depravity and win free life through PAF-run poverty reduction initiatives. His example has also encouraged many others to organize and work for win decent living. There are more than 52,000 dalits in Pyuthan district, according to Census 2001. □

■ By Suman Luitel



Organic fertilizer raises income of Bauraha villagers

Farmers of Bauraha village in Tankisunuwari VDC of Morang district these days use organic fertilizer in their farms. It has not only raised their production, but also helped them get handsome prices for their productions. This has excited the poor community.

Cheaper prices and easy availability of organic fertilizer and the resulting impact such as rise in productivity of land has drawn farmers to use the fertilizer, said Mohammad Wasin, a local farmer. Farmers prepare the fertilizer from manure and other materials available at their own home and surroundings.

Bauraha has the majority of Muslim community followed by Chaudhary and

Yadav community. PAF in support of the World Bank has implemented a Special Innovative Programme here. Milan Community Organization is implementing the programme.

Jubeda Khatun, President of the CO said that farmers in the poor settlement have intensified competition to produce fertilizer using organic technology after they received 3-day training from PAF. Of the 52 households involved in the CO, more than three dozens produce fertilizer themselves.

Digambar Yadav, another local said he prepares organic fertilizer three times a year. "Its use has consistently increased the yield of my farm. I also sell the surplus production in the market. That has enabled me to double my income," he added.



Cost of preparing organic fertilizer stands at Rs 2 per kg. On the other hand, farmers sell it at Rs 11 per kg in the market. This generates a handsome income, said poor farmers.

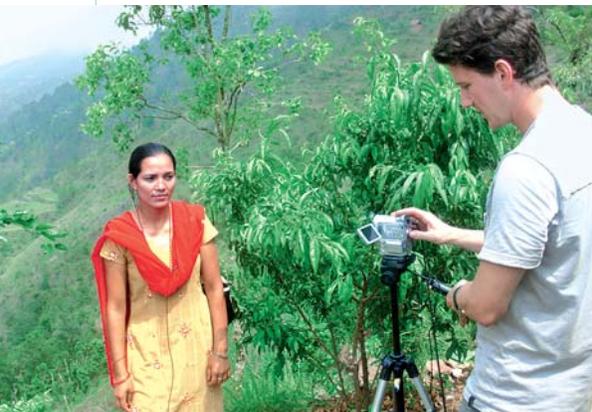
Application of organic fertilizer has lowered the cost of production of vegetables for the farmers, enabling them secure more profit. "Its use is good for health. It enhances taste as well. As a result, people are readily paying more for the vegetables produced in the village," said Jaivinda Kumar Yadav, secretary of the CO. □

■ By Suman Luitel



WB rep visits Ramechhap

Mr. Jan Erik Nora, SAREX unit, World Bank visited PAF program area in Ramechhap district in June, 2007. The aim of his visit was to observe the implementation of PAF programs, interact with community organizations and other stakeholders, and take stock of the situation, among others. In Manthali, Mr. Jan participated in a district program presentation and conducted a field visit to Rampur VDC, interacting with Devithan Ekata Community Organization. He also interacted with Kavre Community Organization. Mr. Jan also visited Sunarpani and Manthali VDCs, where he



held interactions with Janajagriti CO and Janajagan CO respectively.

PAF professionals visit ICIMOD

PAF is exploring the possible areas of collaboration between the Fund and ICIMOD. In a part of it, thirty PAF professionals, including executive director Raj Babu Shrestha, undertook a study/observation tour to ICIMOD Demonstration Site in Godavari on May 15, 2007. PAF Vice Chairman Dr Ram Prakash Yadav led the team.

PAF calendar - 2064 BS

PAF Office came out with an annual calendar of its own for the year 2064 BS. The office published a total of 5000 copies of the calendar and distributed it among its staff members and stakeholders. The calendar was distributed to COs through concerned POs in the PAF districts.

PAF features in TV channels

PAF featured in the major Nepalese television channels in April. A 25-minute PAF documentary was broadcasted through Nepal Television, Kantipur Television, Nepal-1 and Image Channel. The documentary was in the Nepali language. The broadcast disseminated information about PAF, its initiatives, coverage and impact of various IG and infrastructure programs to the targeted communities.

Political leaders, journalists conduct monitoring Visit

Representatives from various political parties and journalists conducted a monitoring visit of PAF activities in Ramechhap on June 24, 2007. The visit was aimed at reviewing PAF performance and building broader understanding and coordination among different stakeholders. The visiting team interacted, observed and reviewed the activities of Bumeshwori CO in Ramechhap-8 and Kavre CO of Kavre-6. "It is good to see that PAF has reached the target communities in a meaningful way," said Lek Bahadur Karki, a representative of Nepali Congress (D).

Trainings

PAF organized a series of intensive enterprise development trainings to PO representatives in different PAF districts. In this regard, enterprise development trainings and SIYB packages were held



jointly for POs in Rolpa and Rukum in Ghorahi, Dang from 2064/1/11 to 2064/1/18. A total of 23 POs representatives including 6 female representatives attended the training. Similar joint training was held for POs in Dolpa and Humla districts in Nepalgunj from 2064/1/19 to 2064/1/26. Thirty-nine PO representatives participated in the training. Likewise, separate trainings on enterprise development and SIYB package was held for POs in Dadeldhura, Doti, Achham, Kalikot and Jajarkot in the respective districts in May and June, 2007. PAF further organized trainings on account keeping to the PO members of Doti, Dadeldhura, Baitadi, Bajura, Achham, Sindhuli, Rautahat and Mahottari in June and July.

'Garibi Nibaran' turns weekly

A program run by PAF in Radio Nepal - Garibi Nibaran - would now be broadcasted every week. The program would be aired every Friday night from 8:45 pm to 9:00 pm. Previously, it was aired on a fortnightly basis from 8:15 pm to 8:30 pm on first and third Saturdays. Nepal Television and Saipal FM in Bhajang is also airing a program on poverty reduction on a fortnightly basis. □

Goldmark new WB Country Director



Susan Goldmark has joined World Bank Nepal Office as its new country director. She took up the position from July 1, 2007, succeeding the outgoing Dr Kenichi Ohashi, who served in the position from 2000.

According to a WB press release, Goldmark, an American national, joined the Bank in 1988 as a private sector development specialist in the Africa region. Since then, she held various positions including Sector Manager for Finance, Private Sector Development and Energy clusters in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Earlier, she studied and worked in Nepal.

"When I was a 20-year old student, I lived in Nepal and was captivated by the country's peoples, cultures and beauty," the release quotes Goldmark as saying. I feel privileged and excited to return at this time of both promise and challenges, and I look forward to supporting the goals of peace and development in Nepal, she said.

Goldmark was selected through a Bank-wide competitive managerial selection process. Ohashi, meanwhile, has been moved to Africa where he is taking up the position of World Bank country director for Ethiopia and Sudan. □

PAF bids adieu to Ken

PAF hosted a reception dinner to bid Farewell to Dr. Kenichi Ohashi, the World Bank's outgoing Country Director for Nepal, and Mrs. Cheryl Martin on July 8, 2007. All the staff members of PAF graced the occasion to appreciate Dr. Ken's contribution and love towards PAF. On the occasion, Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav, Vice-Chairman of PAF expressed his humble appreciation for the contribution made by Ken towards uplifting life of poor Nepalis. "Although PAF was discussed

long before, it materialized only during Ken's tenure as the WB's Country Director in Nepal so PAF and the poor, downtrodden disadvantaged group of people like Dalit, janjati, women and Madheshi owe a great deal to Ken," said Dr Yadav, highlighting the concerns Dr Ken raised and took steps to improving governance, service delivery and advancement of Nepal.

While sharing his experience of working with PAF, which has provided the poor a foundation from where they can now build their own fortune, Dr. Yadav noted that PAF has so far reached only about 10 percent of the poor households. "In other words, we need to reach remaining 90 percent of the poor as fast as possible..... and this we want to do in next few years," said Dr. Yadav. He disclosed that PAF has a plan to start its regular program in altogether 55 districts and poverty pocket programs in remaining 20 districts which are ranked from one to twenty. □

WB commits additional US \$100 million to PAF

The World Bank, the principal lender of PAF, has committed additional financial support of US \$100 million to PAF in order to support the second phase of Nepal's poverty reduction drive.

WB Nepal Office has already processed and forwarded 'Nepal: Poverty Alleviation Fund II (PAF-II Project) Pre-Appraisal Mission Report' to the head office in Washington DC, requesting for the grant assistance for the second phase of PAF. The additional support has been committed for PAF to consolidate the present achievements and also to expand the reach of PAF to the new districts.

At present, PAF programs are implemented in 25 districts. The government has already made announcement for raising its coverage to 40 districts by the end of this fiscal year. PAF has also developed its long term vision plan, whereby it aims to extend its programs to 55 districts by 2008/09 and also run pocket programs in the remaining 20 districts, covering all the 75 districts of the country by the end of the next fiscal year. □

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PAF holds Board Meeting



related activities in the poorest districts of Nepal. Latest figures suggest that PAF has reached over 150,000 poor households. PAF Board is chaired by the Prime Minister and that reflects the conviction, support and commitment of the highest echelon of Government of Nepal to PAF.

Earlier in June, the government appointed five board members for the Poverty Alleviation Fund, giving the PAF board a complete shape after a gap of some two years, through a cabinet decision.

The government appointed Shree Krishna Upadhaya, Dr Bal Gopal Vaidhya, Dr Arju Deuba, Dr Duman Thapa and Khalil Miya as new members of PAF board of directors. The appointments were made as per the PAF Act 2006, which empowers the government to appoint five prominent persons who have made substantial contribution in the poverty alleviation sector.

The 12-member PAF Board includes Prime Minister as the Chairman, independent expert on poverty as the Vice Chairman, Secretary of National Planning Commission, Chairperson of District Development Committee Federation, Village Development Committee Federation, National Women's Commission, National Dalit Commission, and five persons (including a woman)—appointed by the government as members.

Among others, the board oversees the operation, monitoring and management of all the activities to be carried out by the Fund as per the rules framed under the PAF Act for achieving the objective of the Fund. □



PAF in Brief

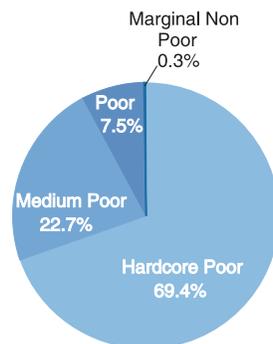
As of mid-July 2007, PAF has reached 150,000 poor households, which is 10.71 percent of the total poor households of the country. It is implementing the poverty reduction programs in 45 districts, where 4,976 COs that signed agreements totaling to NRs. 2,113,512,085.58 with PAF are executing various income generating and community infrastructure programs in 643 VDCs.

Of the total households that have benefitted from PAF programs so far, 69.4 percent are hardcore poor, 22.7 percent are medium poor, 7.5 percent are poor and 0.3 percent are marginal

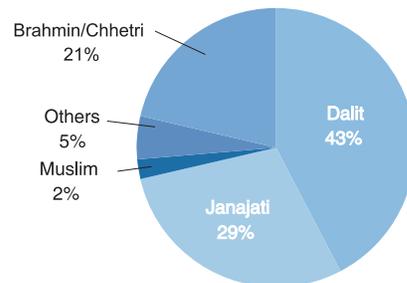
non-poor. Likewise, beneficiary households constitute 43 percent dalit, 29 percent janajati, 2 percent Muslim, 21 percent Brahmin/Chhetri and 5 percent belonging to other ethnicities. Gender wise, 66 percent of the beneficiaries covered are female members.

To materialize these achievements, PAF has so far spent NRs. 1,956,906,297, of which 93 percent was in program implementation (the CO 80% and the PO 13%). In the FY 2063/64, its expenditure was NRs. 1,210,296,385 which was 96.51 percent of the total annual budget. Major indicators of PAF's achievements is tabulated below:

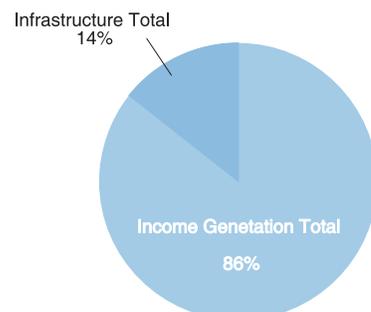
CO Members-Beneficiary Category



CO Members-Ethnicity Wise



PAF Investment Income Generation Vs Infrastructure



HEADING		NUMBER	AMOUNT (MILLION NRs.)
Community Organisation	Registered with PAF	5,424	
	Agreement	4,976	2,113.51
PAF Investment in CO	Income Generating Activities	4,826	1,808.37
	Community Infrastructure	1,103	305.14
Partner Organisations		221	
Districts Covered	Total	45	
	Initial 6 Districts	6	
	Additional 19 Districts	19	
	Innovative Window Districts	14	
VDC Covered	NDM-World Bank	8	
	POs Working	659	
	COs Programme Activity	643	
		PERCENTAGE	
CO Member HH	Total	144,256	
	Poverty		
	Hardcore Poor (Ka)	100,136	69.42
	Ranking		
	Medium Poor (Kha)	32,806	22.74
	Poor (Ga)	10,838	7.51
	Marginal Non-Poor (Gha)	476	0.33
	Gender		
	Male	48,540	33.65
	Female	95,716	66.35
	Ethnicity		
	Dalit	60,765	42.12
	Janajati	42,222	29.27
	Others	41,269	28.61
Total Beneficiary HH		166,474	